

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01247 041156Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6411

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1247

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SO, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA

REF: STATE 139881

1. I CANNOT EXPLAIN PRECISELY WHY PRESIDENT SIAD HAS DELAYED RESPONDING TO THE NOTE SETTING FORTH THE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE VISIT OF THE US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOMALI LEADER IS DISCOURAGED WITH THE PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING THE TYPE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM US THAT HE WANTS. I ALSO BELIEVE HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT AT EACH POINT WHEN HE HAS MADE THE CONCESSIONS WE HAVE REQUESTED, WE HAVE ADDED ANOTHER CONDITION. I CANNOT RULE OUT THE DELAY AS A SIGN OF PIQUE OR DISAPPOINTMENT. BY NOT RESPONDING SIAD MAY ALSO BELIEVE HE CAN PROMPT US TO ALTER THE CONDITIONS PROPOSED IN THE NOTE. PRESUMABLY HE WOULD HOPE TO DO THIS BY DIRECT OR INDIRECT APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER. (STATE 139776 MAY BE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS TACTIC.) I SHOULD BE SURPRISED IF HE DOES NOT MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ALONG THESE LINES TO THE EUROPEAN LEADERS HE HOPES TO SEE LATER THIS MONTH.

2. SIAD HAS KEPT THE ARMS NEGOTIATIONS TIGHTLY HELD. I WAS SURPRISED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE TOLD
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THE SECRETARY THAT THE SOMALIS WOULD WELCOME THE MISSION. I WAS LESS SURPRISED WHEN THE DCM TOLD ME THAT IN MY ABSENCE HE HAD TRIED IN VAIN TO GET SOME RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CONFIRMATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS.

3. I KNOW OF NO POLITICAL REASON WHY SIAD WOULD NOT

WANT TO RECEIVE THE TEAM IF HE THOUGHT HE WERE GOING TO RECEIVE THE TYPE OF ARMS HE WANTS. INDEED, THE OBER-DORFER STORY, STATE 140402, HAS SPARKED APPRECIATIVE COMMENT IN MOGADISCIO AND SOME CONCLUSION, AMONG THE COFFEE HOUSE SET AT LEAST, THAT THIS SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES RULES OUT ANY RETURN TO THE VASSAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. A DELAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE CONCRETE RELATIONSHIP MIGHT LEAD TO SOME POPULAR DISENCHANTMENT.

4. THE TEAM SHOULD ARRIVE IN MOGADISCIO WHEN SIAD IS PRESENT. HIS PERSONAL BLESSING OF THE TEAM'S PRESENCE AND AGREED CHARTER WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO OVERCOME THE NORMAL SOMALI SUSPICIONS OF AN INQUIRY EFFORT OF THIS KIND.

5. I HAVE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO PROD SIAD FOR AN ANSWER TO THE NOTE. I SHOULD THINK IT UNWISE TO ALTER OUR NEGOTIATING STANCE NOW THAT WE HAVE PUT A PROPOSAL TO HIM IN WRITING. I CAN AND SHALL MAKE ANOTHER INQUIRY VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT AS I SAID EARLIER, I BELIEVE SIAD KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT, AND I DON'T THINK WE SHALL HAVE A VERY ENLIGHTENING RESPONSE THROUGH MINISTRY CHANNELS. WE HAVE, AFTER ALL, PUT A PROPOSAL TO SIAD. IT MAY NOT BE ONE THAT PLEASES HIM, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THE INITIATIVE FOR RESPONSE IN HIS HANDS.

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6. ON A RELATED SUBJECT, I HAVE SOUGHT SINCE MY RETURN TO FIND A COPY OF A STUDY DETAILING GSDR SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION FRONTS OPERATING IN THE OGADEN. EITHER I CANNOT FIND IT OR WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT, ALTHOUGH TWO DEPT OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH THE HORN TELL ME SUCH A STUDY WAS SENT TO THIS EMBASSY. SINCE IT BEARS DIRECTLY ON OUR POLICY, I SHOULD APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT. LOUGHRAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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